

The Last Message of a Son to His Mother.

Mother ! That sweet and hallowed name !
How many blessings from thee descend !
They have and always will be the same
From the beginning unto the end.

Mother ! See with what tender emotion
She gently fondles her boy,
Fearing lest the slightest commotion
Should disturb the peace of her joy.

Mother ! See how she watches the youth,
Lest some harsh intruder,
Should attempt to pollute the truth
She instilled for life's rudder.

Mother ! With what pride she watches the man,
As through this world he knocks about ;
Seeing him do the best he can,
To live right, putting evil to rout.

That boy will never forget
That mother who watched while he slept ;
And he will ever return to her yet
That love which her tenderness begat.

Should mother go to meet father,
And leave me here alone,
And be with sister and brother,
Her pleadings for me will be nearer the throne.

And I know that my heavenly Father
Will look in mercy on her son,
For he will listen to mother,
Father, sister and brothers, pleading as one.

And one of these days, that son,
Leaving all here, will join her there,
Father, mother, sister and brothers all like one
As angels, shouting halleluiah in the air.

And now to that mother
Who waits for the tomb,
I dedicate as to no other
These lines to brighten her gloom. D. R.

Seeking the Kingdom.—No. 8.

BY S. B. FURRY.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.—Matt. 6:33.

When Jesus was being taken through the treachery of Judas, by the soldiers, Peter thought he had a right to defend his Lord, and drew the sword and began to smite. "Put up thy sword," came from his Lord : "He that taketh the sword shall perish with the sword." His disciples were yet ignorant of the nature of the kingdom, but now he has an opportunity of teaching them an impressive lesson. No doubt to their surprise he proclaims that "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews." He had power to marshal legions of angels to defend him, but the nature of the kingdom of God would not allow it. His mission was peace and in his first sermon declares, "Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God." This gives us to understand that we must cultivate peace when we seek the kingdom ; for his children are to be peacemakers, and his kingdom is a kingdom of peace and not of war. Strife, hatred and cruelty beget war ; but gentleness, love and kindness beget peace. Satan is king of the former, while God is king of the latter.

When the Savior was upon the threshold of heaven, just prior to his ascension, he gave the following very important legacy to his disciples, "My peace I give unto you ; my peace I leave with you." He was qualified and authorized in every sense to bestow this legacy. He was called the Prince of Peace ; His word is the Gospel of peace, and His way is the path of peace. Why the angels announced at his birth, "Peace on earth good-will toward men !"

True, this peace has a very deep signification ; it cannot be comprehended by the worldly-minded, neither can it be bestowed by the world, yet it will apply to our disposition as seekers of the kingdom. Among the signs which were to follow the disciples of Christ was, "They shall speak with new tongues." How much misery and mischief is accomplished by slanderous tongues ! I think the ministers do not speak enough against this. What does the Apostle James say, "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity ; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature ; and it is set on fire of hell." This is strong language, yet it is inspiration and positively true. It causes envyings and strife, and poisons the community at large. All who engage in this are on the broad road to destruction, and not on the narrow way to the kingdom of God, no difference what the pretensions are. Wars and fightings came from the lusts of depraved men and women, and Satan is the au-

thor of it, and of such is his kingdom. "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace," but envying and strife is the fruit of unrighteousness. Peace is from above, pure and holy ; but strife is from beneath, sensual and devilish.

Then follow after peace, and consecrate your entire being to Christ, who is able to secure you an inheritance among the sanctified in the kingdom of God.

"Our home beyond the gates of light,
Beautiful world of peace ;
Soon, soon will greet our yearning sight,
Beautiful world of peace ;
And soon our feet shall touch the shore,
To tread the ways of earth no more,
Beautiful world of peace."

Letters from Prominent Men Read at the Monday Lectures in Boston.

Bishop Huntingdon wrote : "I believe in Christianity because I believe that the universe must have had a creator, and its Father speaks to His children. Christianity is embodied in the person of Jesus Christ, who stands typifying perfect manhood. Christ, through his Christianity demonstrates the glory of God. Christianity, by its assurance of personal immortality, proves its fitness to humanity, and the effects of Christianity upon nations proves its origin from God."

President Warren, of Boston University, wrote that Christianity had so filled his convictions that he was incapable of believing any other religion.

Ex-President Hill, formerly of Harvard, an eminent Unitarian, wrote : "A personal experience of fifty years gives me great belief in the power of Jesus Christ to guide and sanctify me. In the intimacies and friendships of these fifty years those who were the purest and best were those who kept nearest to Christ."

The Rev. Dr. A. A. Peabody wrote : "I believe in Christianity because it is amply sufficient for my spiritual needs. Half a century's experience shows me that the Gospels could not have been written unless inspired."

Prof. Bowe at Harvard College wrote : "The belief that is within me rests upon many facts—upon a consensus of facts. There is evidence enough for me in the Sermon on the Mount and in the Parables to show that He was the Godhead and spake as never man spoke."

Finish What You Begin.

My old great-grandmother Knox had a way of making her children finish their work. If they began a thing, they must complete it. If they undertook to build a cob-house, they must not leave it until it was done, and nothing of work or play to which they set their hands, would she allow them to abandon incomplete. I sometimes wish I had been trained in this way. How much of life is wasted in unfinished work ! Many a man uses up his time in splendid beginnings. The labor devoted to commence ten things and leave them useless would finish five of them and make them profitable and useful. Finish your work. Life is brief ; time is short. Stop beginning forty things, and go back and finish four. Put patient, persistent toil into the matter, and, be assured, one completed undertaking will yield yourself more pleasure and the world more profit, than a dozen fair plans of which people say, "This man began to build, and was not able to finish." "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."—ANON.

"Papa is Running the Engine."

One beautiful morning in the spring of 1863, I was on board a passenger train, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, crossing the green glades from the Alleghenies westward. At that time this railroad was held alternately by the Federal and Confederate armies, and travel was neither safe nor pleasant. On the occasion of which I write the train was behind its time, and was running at a very high speed, and as we were whirled around sharp curves, over fields, and across bridges, nearly every one on board manifested some anxiety at each jerk and jar of the train. All eyes were turned to the window, and many faces wore a look of uneasiness.

I was thinking of the probabilities of the train being hurled over an embankment, and the fearful

scenes that must follow, when I observed a bright little girl of four or five summers approaching me, and, as she extended her little hand and bade me "Good morning" in a sweet, clear voice, I engaged her in conversation by asking her if she were not afraid to ride on the cars. To which she replied :

"Sometimes, but I am not afraid this morning." "Why," I asked, "are you not afraid this morning ?" "Everybody else seems to be afraid ; and, besides, we are running very rapidly." "Oh, there is no danger at all," she replied, "papa is running the engine."

Her father was the engineer, and she had such implicit confidence in his ability to protect her, that she felt perfectly secure and happy.

I shall never forget the lesson of faith and trust I learned from that dear child. When clouds and storms and darkness surround my pathway, and I almost feel that I must perish, I remember that it is my Father in heaven that watches over me, and if I will only take his proffered hand, he will lead me in paths of peace, besides the still waters. Oh, bless his name forever !—G.

Man's Social Relations.

Among the many blessings which a loving Father has bestowed upon us, is that of sociability. The social element in our make up is an attribute to be cultivated and directed into proper channels.

He who desires absolute loneliness is in an abnormal condition. Even Eden, with all its pictured beauty, was not sufficient for man without company. It was not good for man to be alone. Association is a law of our being.

We are none of us independent. We need the aid of other minds and the labor of other hands. In morals, association inspires us to higher aims and purer motives. The hermit in his seclusion, the monk in his cell, becomes a mental monstrosity. In the world, but not of it, is the only true position for all true men to hold.

We need all the aid of social ties which bind us to our homes, our churches, and our country. Human nature is not a curse, nor is man a stupendous mistake, neither is the social element wholly evil because forsooth some may abuse it. In the array of multitudes against truth, the banding of men in monopolies, the crush and ruin of an invading army and the depredations of the banditti we see this blessing made a curse, as we may in the carousal of the voluptuary and the sensualist. Yet we must not forget that a bond of union may join men for grand purposes, and thus the cause of freedom, justice, truth, and righteousness be advanced as single effort and scattered forces never could accomplish. The ties of earth are sweet and life is made pleasant by association.

The future life has for us the hope of association with God, Christ, the angels, and the pure and blest of all nations, ages, and religions. Man will then, as now, be a social creature. Could I believe that I should be the only one to enter the portals of peace, my desire would be to go to perdition where at least I could have company.

Loneliness is terrible, whether felt in solitude or in the crowd. With company the weak become strong, the coward brave, and the irresolute determined. Joy is enhanced by sharing it with another, and the deepest grief and profoundest woe may be borne where sympathy is assured.

"Forsake not the assembling of yourselves." "Be given to hospitality." "Know them that are over you in the Lord." "Rejoice with them that rejoice, and weep with them that weep." All recognize this trait in humanity which is divinely implanted and is to be used for our good and God's glory.

May we ever aim to be made purer by all earthly associations, and in cultivating the intellectual, moral or physical attributes of our being, never neglect the social side, for by it we are serviceable to man and useful in the hands of God.—CYRUS MENDENHALL.

Say-well is good ; do-well is better.

He that hath no silver in his purse should have it on his tongue.

The hasty divulgers of news generally bring on themselves the trouble of contradiction.